



Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points

September 15, 2020

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important updates

- **New:** NCDHHS_LHD Weekly Webinar_9.15.2020 FINAL.pdf (file attached)
- **New:** COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement and Profile Form (attached)
- **Updated:** Find My Testing Place (file attached)

Needs Assessment Survey

A one-time only survey has been created for all LHD staff has been created to provide feedback on the logistics and planning of the weekly webinar. When navigating through the survey think about the current format of the webinar: is it meeting your needs, are you satisfied, etc.?

Please use this link to provide feedback and suggestions for the weekly LHD COVID-19 webinar:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7N2PT2W>

Tuesday LHD Virtual Call Suggestion Box Survey

Is there a topic that has not been covered on the weekly LHD call that you would like covered? We have created an open 'Suggestion Box' to gather topics of importance from all LHD staff. Please use this link to submit topics you would like to see discussed on the weekly webinars: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B8RVH59>

Vaccination Program Provider Agreement

CDC has released the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement. A copy is attached for your reference. Please do not use this copy to submit. We will send instructions on completion and returning of signed copies soon. We are providing this to give you a start at collecting the required information. We will begin the enrollment process with local health departments and hospitals and expand in the near future. You will note that this agreement, much like existing VFC agreements, requires a signature from the Chief Medical Officer or equivalent as well as the Chief Executive or Chief Fiduciary Officer. This agreement also asks several vaccine storage questions. As a reminder, we do not recommend, nor does CDC, purchasing cold chain vaccine storage equipment at this time. Though we are sending the enrollment agreements to hospitals and local health departments right now, we do encourage all local health departments to make sure they are reviewing lists from



pandemic flu plans and H1N1 experience to make sure they have a full picture of providers in their community that may serve as vaccine access points.

Slow COVID NC – notification application update

Based on feedback and additional consultation with DPH Epi, the important revisions in the plan for LHDs are as follows:

- Persons notified of a potential exposure through the app will be recommended to self-quarantine and encouraged to seek testing.
- There is no expectation that a LHD issue a letter to verify quarantine or a quarantine order pursuant to G.S. 130A-145 to a person notified through the app.
- More information including FAQs are under development.

Department of Public Safety Update – Check your inboxes

NC DHHS and NC Department of Public Safety (DPS) have been working together to develop a standardized process for sharing information regarding COVID-19 cases in prison staff with LHDs. We will send an email to the LHD and CD nurse listservs this week with the case report form that DPS will be using and points of contact at all facilities. This form is intended to provide a quick and easy way for LHDs to obtain key information on staff cases in prisons, and we hope that this new process will make it easier to manage outbreaks in correctional facilities.

Find My Testing Place

Please continue to review the updated 'Find My Testing Place LHD' Excel file weekly to ensure information is up to date and accurate. Please send the updated files or any related questions to [SVC Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov)

Question & Answer

Q: Where are we with the Agreement Addenda (AA) regarding flu vaccine for uninsured adults?

A: We hope to have the final version of the AA by the end of this week or early next week to be able to process and send to local health departments.

Q: How is the county percent positive determined? The long-term care facilities test residents weekly (if the county percent positive rate is less than 10%) and twice a week (if the county percent positive is greater than 10%). Can we direct facilities to NC DHHS for the "official" percentage?

A: CMS calculates percent positivity based on a Thursday to Wednesday cycle. The state reports percent positivity to each county every week in their county reports on Wednesday, available from your TATP nurse. The county reports show percent positivity for weekly periods from Sunday to Saturday. CMS percent positivity for a given county may not match the state's percent positivity due to these different reporting periods, and also due to potential differences in how the state and CMS calculate percent positivity. County level percent positivity is also available for the most recent two-week period on the DHHS website in the testing section.